# APPENDIX

21. A software product for use at a user station, the user station including a processor and a storage device, the software product comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed by the processor:

enable a user at the user station to select content provided by each of a plurality of independent publishers;

effect transport of the selected content to the user station over a communications network and, without user intervention, effect storage of the transported content to the storage device such that the content is retained on the storage device upon shutting down of the user station and/or deactivation of the software product; and

effect presentation of the stored content to the user at the user station with a user interface that is customized to the respective publisher.

22. The software product as set forth in claim 21, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed by the processor:

effect a network connection between the user station and the communications network, via a network provider,

wherein the plurality of independent publishers available for selection are not determined by the network provider.

23. The software product as set forth in claim 22, wherein the communications network is the Internet.

24. The software product as set forth in claim 22, wherein the user interface is provided by the respective publisher.

25. The software product as set forth in claim 21, wherein the user interface is provided by the respective publisher.

26. The software product as set forth in claim 21, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed by the processor:

effect a network connection between the user station and the communications network, via a network provider,

wherein the user interface is provided by the respective publisher independently of the network provider.

27. The software product as set forth in claim 21, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed by the processor:

effect a network connection between the user station and the communications network, via a network provider,

wherein the user interface is provided without cooperation of the network provider.

28. The software product as set forth in claim 21, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected without user intervention.

29. The software product as set forth in claim 21, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected according to a schedule.

30. The software product as set forth in claim 21, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected according to a user-modifiable schedule.

31. The software product as set forth in claim 21, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected automatically and repeatedly.

32. The software product as set forth in claim 21, wherein the selected content is transported directly from each of the independent publishers to the user station.

33. The software product as set forth in claim 21, wherein the selected content is transported from each of the independent publishers to the user station, without first passing through a gateway.

34. The software product as set forth in claim 21, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected in accordance with an object manifest, the object manifest including an identification of a plurality of objects from different respective publishers, and a source address for each of the respective publishers.

35. The software product as set forth in claim 21, wherein the selected content is transported from each of the independent publishers to the user station, without first passing through an online service provider that serves multiple independent publishers.

36. The software product as set forth in claim 21, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected using a non-proprietary data transfer protocol.

37. The software product as set forth in claim 21, wherein the communications network is the Internet.

38. The software product as set forth in claim 21, wherein the selected content is transported from each of the independent publishers to the user station, without first passing through an information distribution service that serves multiple independent publishers.

39. The software product as set forth in claim 21, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed by the processor:

enable the user to effect a network connection between the user station and the communications network, via any selected one of a plurality of different available network providers.

40. A software product for use at a user station, the user station including a processor and a storage device, the software product comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed by the processor:

enable a user at the user station to select content provided by each of a plurality of independent services;

effect transport of the selected content to the user station over a communications network and, without user intervention, effect storage of the transported content to the storage device such that the content is retained on the storage device upon shutting down of the user station and/or deactivation of the software product; and

effect presentation of the stored content to the user at the user station with a user interface that is customized to the respective service.

41. The software product as set forth in claim 40, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed by the processor:

effect a network connection between the user station and the communications network, via a network provider,

wherein the plurality of independent services available for selection are not determined by the network provider.

42. The software product as set forth in claim 41, wherein the communications network is the Internet.

43. The software product as set forth in claim 41, wherein the user interface is provided by the respective service.

44. The software product as set forth in claim 40, wherein the user interface is provided by the respective service.

45. The software product as set forth in claim 40, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed by the processor:

effect a network connection between the user station and the communications network, via a network provider,

wherein the user interface is provided by the respective service independently of the network provider.

46. The software product as set forth in claim 40, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed by the processor:

effect a network connection between the user station and the communications network, via a network provider,

wherein the user interface is provided without cooperation of the network provider.

47. The software product as set forth in claim 40, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected without user intervention.

48. The software product as set forth in claim 40, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected according to a schedule.

49. The software product as set forth in claim 40, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected according to a user-modifiable schedule.

50. The software product as set forth in claim 40, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected automatically and repeatedly.

51. The software product as set forth in claim 40, wherein the selected content is transported directly from each of the independent services to the user station.

52. The software product as set forth in claim 40, wherein the selected content is transported from each of the independent services to the user station, without first passing through a gateway.

53. The software product as set forth in claim 40, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected in accordance with an object manifest, the object manifest including an identification of a plurality of objects from different respective services, and a source address for each of the respective services.

54. The software product as set forth in claim 40, wherein the selected content is transported from each of the independent services to the user station, without first passing through an online service provider that serves multiple independent publishers.

55. The software product as set forth in claim 40, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected using a non-proprietary data transfer protocol.

56. The software product as set forth in claim 40, wherein the communications network is the Internet.

57. The software product as set forth in claim 40, wherein the selected content is transported from each of the independent services to the user station, without first passing through an information distribution service that serves multiple independent publishers.

58. The software product as set forth in claim 40, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed by the processor:

enable the user to effect a network connection between the user station and the communications network, via any selected one of a plurality of different available network providers.

59. A software product for use at a user station, the user station including a processor and a storage device, the software product comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed by the processor:

enable a user at the user station to select one or more remote information object sources from a plurality of available remote information object sources operated by independent publishers;

effect transport of one or more information objects from any selected one of the remote information object sources to the user station over a communications network and, without user intervention, effects storage of the transported information object(s) to the storage device such that the information object(s) are retained on the storage device upon shutting down of the user station and/or deactivation of the software product; and

enable, for each stored information object, presentation of that object to the user at the user station with a look and feel that is specific to the respective publisher.

60. The software product as set forth in claim 59, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed by the processor:

effect a network connection between the user station and the communications network, via a network provider,

wherein the plurality of remote information object sources available for selection are not determined by the network provider.

61. The software product as set forth in claim 60, wherein the communications network is the Internet.

62. The software product as set forth in claim 60, wherein the user interface is provided by the respective publisher.

63. The software product as set forth in claim 59, wherein the user interface is provided by the respective publisher.

64. The software product as set forth in claim 59, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed by the processor:

effect a network connection between the user station and the communications network, via a network provider,

wherein the user interface is provided by the respective publisher independently of the network provider.

65. The software product as set forth in claim 59, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed by the processor:

effect a network connection between the user station and the communications network, via a network provider,

wherein the user interface is provided without cooperation of the network provider.

66. The software product as set forth in claim 59, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected without user intervention.

67. The software product as set forth in claim 59, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected according to a schedule.

68. The software product as set forth in claim 59, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected according to a user-modifiable schedule.

69. The software product as set forth in claim 59, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected automatically and repeatedly.

70. The software product as set forth in claim 59, wherein the selected content is transported directly from each of the remote information object sources to the user station.

71. The software product as set forth in claim 59, wherein the selected content is transported from each of the remote information object sources to the user station, without first passing through a gateway.

72. The software product as set forth in claim 59, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected in accordance with an object manifest, the object manifest including an identification of a plurality of objects from different remote information object sources, and a source address for each of the respective remote information object sources.

73. The software product as set forth in claim 59, wherein the selected content is transported from each of the remote information object sources to the user station, without first passing through an online service provider that serves multiple independent publishers.

74. The software product as set forth in claim 59, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected using a non-proprietary data transfer protocol.

75. The software product as set forth in claim 59, wherein the communications network is the Internet.

76. The software product as set forth in claim 59, wherein the selected content is transported from each of the remote information object sources to the user station, without first passing through an information distribution service that serves multiple independent publishers.

77. The software product as set forth in claim 59, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed by the processor:

enable the user to effect a network connection between the user station and the communications network, via any selected one of a plurality of different available network providers.

78. A software product for use at a user station, the user station including a processor and a storage device, the software product comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed by the processor:

enable a user at the user station to select one or more remote information object sources from a plurality of available independently operated remote information object sources;

effect transport of one or more information objects from any selected one of the remote information object sources to the user station over a communications network and, without user intervention, effects storage of the transported information object(s) to the storage device such that the information object(s) are retained on the storage device upon shutting down of the user station and/or termination of the software product; and

enable, for each stored information object, presentation of that object to the user at the user station with a look and feel that is specific to the respective information object source.

79. The software product as set forth in claim 78, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed by the processor:

effect a network connection between the user station and the communications network, via a network provider,

wherein the plurality of remote information object sources available for selection are not determined by the network provider.

80. The software product as set forth in claim 79, wherein the communications network is the Internet.

81. The software product as set forth in claim 79, wherein the user interface is provided by the respective remote information object source.

82. The software product as set forth in claim 78, wherein the user interface is provided by the respective remote information object source.

83. The software product as set forth in claim 78, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed by the processor:

effect a network connection between the user station and the communications network, via a network provider,

wherein the user interface is provided by the respective remote information object source independently of the network provider.

84. The software product as set forth in claim 78, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed by the processor:

effect a network connection between the user station and the communications network, via a network provider,

wherein the user interface is provided without cooperation of the network provider.

85. The software product as set forth in claim 78, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected without user intervention.

86. The software product as set forth in claim 78, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected according to a schedule.

87. The software product as set forth in claim 78, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected according to a user-modifiable schedule.

88. The software product as set forth in claim 78, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected automatically and repeatedly.

89. The software product as set forth in claim 78, wherein the selected content is transported directly from each of the remote information object sources to the user station.

90. The software product as set forth in claim 78, wherein the selected content is transported from each of the remote information object sources to the user station, without first passing through a gateway.

91. The software product as set forth in claim 78, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected in accordance with an object manifest, the object manifest including an identification of a plurality of objects from different remote information object sources, and a source address for each of the respective remote information object sources.

92. The software product as set forth in claim 78, wherein the selected content is transported from each of the remote information object sources to the user station, without first passing through an online service provider that serves multiple independent publishers.

93. The software product as set forth in claim 78, wherein the transport of the selected content to the user station is effected using a non-proprietary data transfer protocol.

94. The software product as set forth in claim 78, wherein the communications network is the Internet.

95. The software product as set forth in claim 78, wherein the selected content is transported from each of the remote information object sources to the user station, without first passing through an information distribution service that serves multiple independent publishers.

96. The software product as set forth in claim 78, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed by the processor:

enable the user to effect a network connection between the user station and the communications network, via any selected one of a plurality of different available network providers.